



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

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Blasting contractor fined for causing flyrock incident that damaged Floyd County home *Friday blast sent large boulder into home*

FRANKFORT, KY – (Aug. 31, 2009) – Kentucky mining officials have issued fines totaling \$10,000 to the contractor responsible for the blast that sent a large boulder into a Floyd County home. Austin Powder Co. was issued the notice of citations by the Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement (DMRE) for unsafe use of explosives, and causing a flyrock incident resulting from unsafe practices. Flyrock incidents occur when rock leaves a permitted mining area following a monitored blast on the mining site. The flyrock incident occurred late Friday afternoon.

The home, located on Caney Fork Road at Hippo, Ky., sustained serious damage to the rear of the home. It was also knocked from its foundation by the boulder, which measured approximately 4 feet wide, 6 feet deep and 9 feet high. No one was home at the time. Two other homes were evacuated due to other rocks that were determined to be in danger of falling. However, those rocks were stabilized and the residents allowed to return to their homes.

Austin Powder Co. was contracted to perform blasting work at the site licensed to Frasure Creek Mining Co. LLC.

DMRE officials are continuing the investigation and more action against the company could be taken.